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3 July 1950

OUTLINE OF THE COMMO SITUATION

The Problem

1. To insure that the CIA commo facilities (personnel, establishment, equipment and supplies) are adequate to support OSO and OPC operations in order that they can discharge their responsibilities.

Facts Relating to the Problem

2. As a result of studies by the Joint OSO/OPC Commo Board, the Assistant Director on 19 April 1950 submitted to the Director an Overseas Communications Plan involving the expenditure of [redacted] dollars during the next three years. The Director on 25 April 1950 approved this plan after consultation with the Exec Sec of NSC and directed its implementation.

3. Upon receipt of the Director's approval, the Commo Division began taking steps to execute the plan. Reasonable progress has been made and up to this point phasing is approximately in accordance with the time schedule originally provided.

4. The Commo Division has contributed materially to current operational activities of OPC by assigning commo personnel who were originally recruited and trained for general commo billets.

5. Although the Commo Division is not adequately prepared to assume wartime responsibilities, the following steps have recently been taken to meet further emergencies:

a. The U. S. base station is operating a continuous guard channel.

25X1C b. Five package stations were earmarked and ready for air shipment as of 1 July. It is proposed to fly this equipment with emergency personnel to [redacted] for standby purposes.

25X1C c. Within 48 hours equipment and operations will also be available in the [redacted]

25X1A d. Arrangements have been made with OPC to reassign certain personnel and equipment from [redacted] to commo duties if an emergency should justify such action.

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6. Some of the confusion in the Commo Division and many of the difficulties between OPC and Commo have been caused by the failure of OPC in some instances to present its requirements in an orderly and timely manner.

7. The following difficulties of a generic nature have been encountered:

a. The headquarters staff is inadequate to assume the additional burden that has been placed upon it, particularly with regard to the complicated inter-agency and international negotiations.

b. The headquarters space is inadequate to house current activities, much less the approved expansion.

c. Recruiting difficulties have been encountered, particularly with regard to code clerks.

25X1A d. Training facilities are inadequate, and the proposed move to [redacted] is not a satisfactory solution.

8. The following specific difficulties have been encountered:

a. The capabilities of the Chief of the Commo Division may be inadequate to discharge his increased responsibilities. This has been indicated in the following:

(1) Recognition of the problem and comprehension of the broader aspects of clandestine communications.

(2) Creative imagination to solve the problem.

(3) Leadership required to develop and retain loyalty and esprit de corps.

(4) Technical competence in the fields of:

(a) Covert operations.

(b) Radio broadcasting as distinguished from standard communications.

(5) Ability to gain confidence of operations Division Chiefs.

(6) Ability to handle inter-agency negotiations.

9. The seriousness of the situation outlined in paragraphs 3 and 4 has been greatly aggravated by developments of the past ten days.

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Recommendations

10. It is recommended that corrective action be taken to:

- a. Employ a new Chief for the Commo Division who will have capacity to discharge enlarged responsibilities under wartime conditions. ✓
✓10
- b. Strengthen the headquarters staff of the Commo Division to enable it to handle effectively the increased duties. ✓
- c. Obtain adequate space to house current activities and approved expansion. ✓
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- d. Stimulate recruiting, particularly of code clerks and other scarce categories. ✓
- e. Expand training facilities to meet present and approved requirements. ✓
*To limit
of space
availability*
- f. Review the recently approved Overseas Commo Plan and make necessary changes with a view to accelerating the development program, in the light of recent developments and the highly critical character of the international situation. ✓
*Comm
Board*

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